



AKT Board Approves Convention Savings

Following a number of requests from the membership, the AKT Board of Directors, at its February meeting, approved several requests to provide several special price breaks for FUSION! — AKT's Convention '92, March 5-8, at the Lawrence Holiday Inn Holidome, 200 MacDonald Drive (just off the West Lawrence exit of the Kansas Turnpike/I-70).

"A number of our members called and asked about bringing a guest or spouse to the formal banquet Saturday night without having to pay the entire convention registration fee," said John C. Hunter, AKT president. "That seemed like a valid request, and since we feel this could be an excellent way to introduce other people to AKT, convention registrants may purchase additional tickets for the dinner/dance at the \$20.00 banquet rate."

The board went a step further, offering a special convention rate for spouses who are not AKT members, but who would like to sit-in on some of the workshops or attend the productions. The special spouse admission is \$30.00, a savings of \$25.00 over the regular \$55.00 registration price.

"We have also been approached by a number of members who can attend one day of the convention, but who have previous commitments which require them to miss most of our offerings," Hunter continued. "For them, the board approved a one-day admission price of \$25.00. These one-day specials will be available at the registration table in the Holidome. The special prices do not, of course, include meals."

Finally, the board also clarified the cost of the convention for students. "AKT student members," Hunter said, "can attend all

FUSION! workshops and productions free of charge. The only cost of attending the convention for them will be meal charges. Full-time students may join AKT at the convention by paying the normal \$10.00 annual membership dues."

At the request of a number of members who attended last year's soiree in Kansas City, this year's convention registration price has been reduced by making meals optional. Meals may be purchased individually by marking the appropriate line on the registration form. The Thursday evening Welcome Banquet and the Friday Secondary Schools Banquet each cost \$10.00; Friday and Saturday box lunches cost \$6.00 each; price of the Saturday evening formal Dinner/Dance is \$20.00, and the Sunday Send-Off Buffet is available for \$8.00. Total meals cost, if all meals are purchased, is \$60.00. (*A complete registration form is available on page 5.*)

Working theme for the convention is FUSION! — bringing together of presenters and artists, teachers and directors, performers and playwrights, communities and professionals, and colleges and high schools.

The "accent on youth" will provide sharing of ideas across divisional lines: Some possibilities include new ways to fuse theatre and education; new ways to fuse theatre for youth into current theatre programs; new ways to include educational components into professional presentations; new ways to bring children (and, especially, their parents) into a community theatre, and new ways to have children prepared for college by participating in theatre activities.

During divisional meetings which both open and close the convention, members will set

policies for the coming year. Of special importance to Children's Theatre and University/College Division members is the election of chairs-elect to serve on the board for one year prior to assuming leadership of their respective divisions in 1993-94.

For the first time, K-12 teachers at the convention may receive three hours in-service credit for attendance. Teachers seeking credit should register with Jo Anna Grogan, School of Applied Behavior and Continuing Education, Washburn University, 1700 College, Topeka, KS 66621, or phone 913-231-2020, ext. 1399. Convention/In-Service Credit Fee is \$75.00 for AKT members, or \$95.00 for non-members.

Members of Mid-America Presenters (producers from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska or Arkansas interested in booking tour shows into their facilities) have been invited to join AKT members in viewing presentations by Theatre Works, U.S.A from New York; Wichita Children's Theatre Outreach; Nebraska Theatre Caravan; Lawrence

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Nationally Known Specialists To Be Respondents

Attending FUSION! and serving as respondents for the productions will be two nationally known children's theatre specialists.

Pamela Sterling was named Honolulu Theatre For Youth's artistic director during the 1990-91 season. She was previously the artistic director of the Coterie Theatre, Kansas City, Mo., where her directing credits included *The Odyssey*, *Takunda*, *Great Expectations* and *Most Valuable Player*.

Sterling is a nationally recognized actress, director and playwright, honored by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as Best Director in 1985 for her work at the Theatre Project Company of St. Louis, and she was the recipient of the Winifred Ward Scholarship in 1981. Last year, she was recognized by the Hawaii State Theatre Council as Best Director for HTY's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Her playwriting accomplishments include *The Secret Garden*, *Friday's Child*, *The Ugly Duckling* and *Scrapbooks* (which will be presented at the AKT Convention by Lawrence High School Friday evening).

A member of the board of the Hawaii State Theatre Council, Sterling also is a member of the USA Chapter of ASSITEJ, the international organization of professional theatres for young audiences.

Max Bush is teacher-turned-playwright from Hamilton, Mich. Holder of a bachelor's degree in English Education and a master's degree in Directing from Michigan State University, he has had plays published by Anchorage Press, New Plays, Inc., Dramatics Publishing and the Coach House Press.

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Wide Range Of Topics Covered By Convention '92 Workshops

Laurie VanderPol-Hosek, workshop chair for Convention '92, has released additional details on workshops designed to appeal to the wide variety of theatrical interests of convention-goers.

In response to a great number of requests from last year's convention attendees, Dr. Mike McElhaney will reprise his very popular and thought-provoking seminar, "Hell Hath No Fury Like . . . , or Producing On The Edge." McElhaney, an instructor of acting, directing and theatre history at Southwest Missouri State University, directed a production of *The Normal Heart* which caused such controversy that it attracted national attention and made the university a political pawn in the question of censorship of the arts.

Also added recently was "Adapting Classroom Readings For Performance: An Introduction To Transformation Theatre," by Michael Orth and Debra Christy of The Illustrated Theatre. This workshop will give teachers active experience in using theatre in the language arts classroom to help children visualize (or write) literature in a new way. The

system utilizes transformation theatre, a cooperative effort on the part of students to create plays using a minimum of props and costumes.

Among other workshop highlights are:

- "Box Office — The Migraine of Management" — AKT President John Hunter, Washburn University; AKT Secretary Donna Jenks, Topeka Civic Theatre and Debbie Grey, Topeka Performing Arts Center will discuss standard printed or computer-generated theatre tickets and box office management: like the never-ending story or the unsolvable puzzle, what/how or why does it work?
- "Alternative Concepts and Designs; Practices for Limited Budgets" will be offered by Tom Ward, Salina Community Theatre; Amy Hensley, Hutchinson Community College; and Joe Baer, Topeka Civic Theatre. Each participant will cover his or her own area of expertise as it relates to the finished production, with emphasis on alternative materials and concepts.
- AKT Executive Director John Gedraitis; *Continued on page 2*

New Legislation Assists Americans With Disabilities

The new Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), which went into effect for public accommodations Jan. 26, will affect all AKT member theatres, according to Tom Klocke, project coordinator for Accessible Arts, Inc. "The bill assures that every individual has equal access to all public and privately owned businesses, schools and accommodations," Klocke said. "Virtually the only facilities that are exempted are private clubs, religious organizations and private homes."

Though Klocke is quick to point out he is not a lawyer and his ideas are not meant to be legal advice, he has been tracking the bill since its inception due to its implications for arts facilities.

Klocke points out that the bill requires "reasonable accommodation" — that a theatre must do what it can to make its facility

accessible to all patrons. "The bill was never intended to cause undue financial hardship to any organization, and it does recognize good-faith efforts to achieve accessibility. However, if individuals feel they have been discriminated against because of a perceived disability, they may bring a civil action against the theatre. The Attorney General may intervene if it is deemed that the case is of general public importance."

Under the terms of the act, patrons must be able to, first, get into a building. Ramps and widened doorways must be provided for individuals who use wheelchairs. The bill specifically prohibits theatres from claiming accessibility by stating that individuals in wheelchairs can be carried into the building. Braille and raised letter signs for the sight impaired, among other items, are spelled out in the bill.

Once inside, patrons with disabilities must be assured of the opportunity to fully participate in any program offered. Wheelchair seating must be provided in the auditorium, "... and it is desirable to have it so located that disabled patrons may sit with friends who accompany them," Klocke said. Doors must be light enough that they can be opened by someone in a wheelchair or on crutches; sufficient lighting on stairways and aisles must be provided for the sight impaired; amplification systems or signers must be provided for the hearing impaired, etc. Telephones and water fountains must be low enough to be accessible to someone in a wheelchair, and rest rooms must be accessible.

Key word, Klocke reiterates, is "reasonable effort" to comply with the new law. "For example, not every performance of a play must

be signed for hearing impaired patrons," he said, "but within the run of a play, hearing impaired patrons should at least have a reasonable opportunity to attend one or two performances which are signed."

While these provisions are mandated to accommodate individuals with disabilities, there is a peripheral advantage for all patrons. "Accessibility requirements affect people with disabilities directly," Klocke said, "but these improvements make it easier for everyone to function in a theatre. Elderly patrons may not be considered 'disabled,' for example, but a ramp at the front door may certainly make it easier for them to enter."

Finally, Klocke advocates making improved accommodations a part of a theatre's advertising. "People with disabilities have not regularly attended the theatre," he said. "We need to use our audience development methods — targeting deaf clubs, handicapped groups, etc. — to make these people aware that they are now able to attend our productions and enjoy themselves. We have an opportunity to open up an entire new market for our work."

Technical assistance regarding public accommodations is available from the federal government. Contact the Department of Justice, 1-800-466-4232, for information regarding programs for the handicapped, and the Access Board, 202-653-7834, for tips on bringing buildings up to standards.

Questions on the ADA itself may be referred to Klocke at Accessible Arts, 1100 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102, or phone 913-281-1133.

Workshops . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Charles Kephart, Salina Community Theatre; and Jackie Hinton, Theatre Atchison collaborate on "P.R., or How To Market Your Theatre." All experienced theatre managers, the participants will provide examples of successful programs they developed to publicize their theatres and productions . . . and also the brilliant ideas that didn't work.

- Kephart, Hinton, Kate Taylor, Salina Community Theatre; and Community Theatre Chair-Elect Laurie VanderPol-Hosek will also be involved in a panel discussion about the 'nuts and bolts' of creating a new program for children in an existing theatre, "Starting From Scratch — Building A Children's Program In Your Theatre."
- Hosek, along with members of the Heartland Community Church drama team, will also present "Starting A New Drama Program In A Church Setting, or New Opportunities For Theatre Practitioners In The Church." In this workshop, the actors will perform three scenes created especially for the church and will discuss new trends in theatre in contemporary churches.
- A roundtable discussion on "Turning Stumbling Blocks Into Stepping Stones: How To Produce A Winning Secondary School Theatre Program" will be facilitated by Jeanne Averill, Lawrence High School; and AKT Secondary Schools Chair Phil Kinen, Pioneer Trail Jr. High of Olathe, plus others. A panel of experienced theatre teachers will reveal the philosophy of their respective programs and will share practical solutions for challenges facing today's theatre educators.

Kinen will also be involved in two additional workshops. The first is "The Other Arts In Theatre," a study of how other art forms can be incorporated into current productions, or

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Respondents

Bush has received commissions from the Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre, the Nashville Academy Theatre, the Goodman/DePaul School of Drama and the Honolulu Youth Theatre, among others. He has received the Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education (AATE), has won the Indiana University-Purdue University Playwriting Competition for Young Audiences and has several times been listed with the AATE Unpublished Playreading Project. In addition to writing plays for young adults, Bush has also written plays for adults and for television and screen.

Besides coming to Lawrence as a convention respondent, Bush will be represented on both the University of Kansas Theatre and Seem-To-Be Players 1992-93 season playbills

(Continued from page 1)

with his plays, *Thirteen Bells of Boglewood* and *Hansel and Gretel*.

A third respondent, the proverbial "player to be named later," will also be available.

Not a respondent, but someone of special interest who will attend the convention is Dr. Michael McElhaney, professor of theatre at Southwest Missouri State University. McElhaney will reprise his highly acclaimed workshop from last year's convention at Johnson County Community College which dealt with the national controversy centering around his production of *The Normal Heart* at the university and the subject of censorship of the arts in general. The workshop proved to be so popular that a number of members have requested that Dr. McElhaney be invited back to this year's convention.

From The President

Dear Members:

We heard you!

Last year . . .

- You told us to keep the convention registration fee down. — *We've done that!*
- You asked us to make meals optional. — *Done!*
- You wanted daily registration and payment for sponsors and individual events. — *Done! Done! Done!*

Now, it's up to you. I challenge each and every one of you to either bring students, bring in a new member or a past member who has not renewed, or bring your spouse and have a great time.

Yes, our convention is focused on children's theatre presentations, but our workshops are designed to cover a broad perspective of theatre activity.

Yes, we are offering in-service credits for teachers and we do have an outlined program for them, but you do not have to be a secondary teacher or children's theatre buff in order to enjoy this convention.

Times are difficult, and money is tight for individuals as well as institutions, but there is a significant reason to support your statewide organization — not only because it's yours, but that it represents your career choice, and to let it die or not support it financially is to somehow say, "Well, what I do is just not that important."

The Board of this organization is *you* — we are teachers, performers, designers, managers writers, etc. We are similar in salary; similar in our family concerns, and — hopefully — similar in our visions. We are working for you, now is your opportunity to assist us.

Register now! Encourage others! Support AKT — your statewide theatre organization!

John Hunter

Contributors

Thanks to the following members who have demonstrated their support for AKT by becoming Contributing Members:

FRIENDS

Rick Tyler McPherson
Twink Lynch Topeka

CONTRIBUTORS

Charley Oldfather Lawrence
John C. Hunter Topeka
Warren Deckert Pawnee Rock
Jackie Hinton Atchison
Roberta Harkness Dodge City

Workshops

how they can be used to expand the theatre curriculum. The second workshop is "Teaching Playwriting for Ages 12-18," a discussion of the teaching of playwriting in the classroom. The workshop will focus on the five-step approach to writing and how to adapt it to playwriting.

Among the other workshops to be presented are:

- **Mary Doveton**, Lawrence Community Theatre, will facilitate a panel on "Fund-Raising: Before You See Red."
- **Jack Wright**, University of Kansas

Theatre, will present "The Art Of Teaching Acting." A KU faculty member, Dr. Wright will share ideas about effective methods of dealing with young actors.

- A seminar on "Advanced Directing" will be conducted by **Roger Moon**, Southwestern College, Winfield.
- Mike Boring, Lawrence, will provide a voice workshop, "The Voice From a Music Director's Point of View."
- Sue J. Mai, Emporia State University,

will cover "Costume Design: From Garbage to Glamour."

- David Hosek of Lawrence, will conduct a session on "Sound Design: What The New Computerized Keyboards and Music Writing Programs Can Mean To You."

Workshops are open to all Convention '92 conventiongoers. To take part, fill out and mail the Registration Form on page 5, along with your check in the proper amount to the AKT Central Office, 949 Parklane, #332, Wichita, Kansas 67218.

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AKT Convention '92 — FUSION! Midwest Regional Festival Of Theatre For Young Audiences

March 5-8, 1992

Lawrence Holidome, Lawrence, Kansas

(Teachers' In-Service events marked by *)

THURSDAY

PM

- 3:00 - Registration Opens
- 4:00 - Divisional Meetings
- 5:30 - *Welcome Banquet, Introductions
- 6:45 - *Drama curriculum/Plan for convention
- 7:30 - *Scrapbooks by Pam Sterling
Presented by Lawrence High School
- 9:00 - *FUSION! Session #1 — Discussion with the playwright
- 9:30 - Afterglow (optional)

FRIDAY

AM

Breakfast on your own

- 9:00 - *The World of Missing Persons, Pioneer Trail Jr. High, Olathe
- 9:00 - WORKSHOP A — "P.R., or How to Market Your Theatre"
WORKSHOP B — "Accessible Arts — Awareness"
- 10:30 - *Crying To Laugh, KU Theatre For Young People, Lawrence
- 10:45 - WORKSHOP A — "Fund-Raising: Before You See Red"
WORKSHOP B — "Accessible Arts — Curriculum"
- 11:30 - Box lunches available (through 1:30 p.m.)

PM

- 12:30 - *FUSION! Session #2 — Discussion of morning productions
- 1:30 - *Goldilocks, Theatre For Young America, Overland Park
- 1:30 - WORKSHOP A — "For the Teachers of Acting"
WORKSHOP B — "The OTHER ARTS in the Theatre"
- 3:00 - Choice of AKT Workshops:
WORKSHOP A — "Alternative Concepts and Design:
Practices For Limited Budgets"
WORKSHOP B — "Roundtable: Turning Stumbling Blocks
Into Stepping Stones — How to Produce a Winning
Secondary Program"
- WORKSHOP C — "Starting From Scratch: Building a
Children's Program in Your Theatre"
- WORKSHOP D — "Playwriting: Award-Winning Kansas
Playwrights Discuss Their Plays"
- 4:30 - All-Convention Special Guest Presentation — "Hell Hath
No Fury Like . . .": Producing *The Normal Heart*, Mike
McElhaney, Southwest Missouri State University
(repeated by request from 1991 Convention)
- 6:00 - Secondary Awards Banquet
- 6:45 - Presentation of Secondary School Teacher/Administrator
Awards
- 8:00 - *I Married Adventure, The Seem-To-Be Players, Lawrence
- 9:30 - Afterglow (optional)
- 10:30 - Special Surprise Theatre Performance

SATURDAY

AM

Breakfast on your own

- 8:30 - *FUSION! Session #3 — Discussion of prior afternoon and evening performances
- 9:00 - WORKSHOP A — "Advanced Directing"
WORKSHOP B — "New Opportunities for Theatre Practitioners in the Church"
- 9:30 - *Sleeping Beauty, Wichita Children's Theatre,
- 11:00 - *Shakespeare In Action, Theatreworks USA, New York City
- 11:00 - WORKSHOP A — "From Garbage to Glamour: Costume Design with Susan Mai"
WORKSHOP B — "Adapting Classroom Readings for Performance: An Introduction to Transformation Theatre," The Illustrated Theatre Company

PM

- 12:00 - Box lunches available (through 1:30 p.m.)
- 12:45 - *FUSION! Session #4 — Discussion of morning performances
- 1:30 - *Ichabod, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, Omaha
- 1:30 - WORKSHOP A — "Teaching Playwriting for Ages 12-18"
WORKSHOP B — "Musicals From the Music Director's Point of View"
- 3:00 - *Performance, Illustrated Theatre Company, Chicago, Illinois and Denver, Colorado
- 3:00 - WORKSHOP A — "Box Office — The Migraine of Management"
WORKSHOP B — TBA
- 4:30 - *Performance TBA, Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre, Omaha
- 6:00 - Cash Bar
- 7:00 - AKT Formal Banquet (Black Tie Optional)
Major Awards Presented
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jed Davis, The University of Kansas
- 9:00 - Dance with Chuck Berg
- Midnight

SUNDAY

AM

Breakfast on your own

(NOTE: Holidome checkout is 11 a.m.)

- 10:00 - *FUSION! Session #5 — Final wrap-up discussion covering both afternoon performances and festival in general
- 11:00 - Divisional Meetings

PM

- 12:00 - Send-Off Buffet w/special inspirational speaker

NOTE FROM THE CONVENTION CHAIR

This convention will be **FUN!**

This convention will help you **CHOOSE SHOWS** for your season!

... But as much as all this is important, this convention will be fun!!! Hope to see all you AKT people and your guests there.

Thanks, Ric Averill

AKT-Sponsored Script Anthology To Be Available In Lawrence

The winners of the Robert E. Gross Memorial Manuscript Competition will be available for purchase at the spring convention. This collection of Kansas plays, edited by Professional Division Chair **Repha Buckman**, has combined the resources of AKT, Woodley Memorial Press and the Center for Kansas Studies to publish this first anthology of Kansas Playwrights.

Plays included in the collection are: *The Journal of Joshua Hosannah*, by Larry Sadowski, *Dirk's Exodus* by James Juhnke, *Saturday's Child* by Bob Peterson and *Native Stone* by James B. Steerman. While originally the collection was to include five plays, third-place winner, Scott Curry, declined publication for *The Survivors Project: Voices From the Front*.

"There is a vast range of diversity among the scripts," says Buckman, "making it an interesting documentation of what is happening with new plays in our state. Final judge Jack Gilhooley of Florida, wrote about our winners, 'I was impressed at the high quality of the submissions. All these writers know their way around the stage'."

Buckman, in designing the book, chose Hutchinson artist, Laura Bucher to create a cover design similar to our 1987 Convention program. "The high-stepper in the sunflowers not only spoke to me of the Kansas motif but reinforces that we do classy work out here on the plains; and it ties the book into AKT in a symbolic way I like," she said.

The Robert E. Gross Memorial Manuscript Competition, established in the fall of 1985, was designed to publish and promote poetry within the state of Kansas and this marks the first time the award has been offered for playwrights. "I was delighted," said Buckman, "that this contest was available for playwrights while I was serving as Professional Division Chair. As my term comes to an end with the publication of the manuscript, I feel through combining our resources, we have accomplished our division goal for my term: to give Kansas playwrights publication and increased visibility. For Robert Gross, the continued struggle toward establishing a reputation as a writer and pursuing publication was a frustrating experience, as it is for many, but the playwright has the added burden of finding production, for a play isn't published until it has completed that process. I am honored to edit it. I know our members will enjoy it."

Theatre In Our Schools Celebrated

There is still time to participate in the **Theatre In Our Schools Month** celebrations for 1992. Please take the time to do something to show your support for theatre and its place in education. TIOSM is a great way to expand the love of theatre to children.

Once all the celebrations and projects are completed, please take the time to let us know what you have done. One of the long-range goals of TIOSM is advocacy. Your reports give us the data we need in this world of documentation and supporting schedules. Not everyone believes in the necessity of theatre and only numbers can change their minds. Please send information on your celebration of TIOSM to **Trish McIntire**, 415 S. 3rd, Arkansas City, KS 67005.

It is also time to start planning for 1993. If you want to be more actively involved with TIOSM or have an idea for next year, please let us know. Thank you.

Eric Magnus
Trish McIntire

Ideas for Community Groups

- Ask businesses to put THEATRE IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH on their marques. • Approach the local service clubs regarding theatre scholarships which could be announced during the month.
- Publish a community arts calendar of all the events being presented during the month. • Organize a theatre festival within a school or with the community arts councils. • Develop a local celebration involving the entire community by obtaining a declaration from the mayor and/or the school board and initiating a community planning task force to make preparations. • Develop a local cooperative project with the local media to produce, for example, 1) student videotape or film, 2) specially aired television, radio, or newspaper feature, 3) a radio drama series, 4) a series of interviews on theatre education issues, 5) a special newspaper supplement on theatre education. • "Adopt-A-Kid for the Theatre" — high school drama students, theatre professionals, community theatre members, service club members — anyone — could be encouraged to take a "little brother or sister" to the theatre.
- Professional or community groups could open their dress rehearsals or special performances with critique sessions to school groups. • Put announcements of THEATRE IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH in all programs, playbills, and posters.

Ideas for School Groups

- Involve parents in school theatre activities as well as community artists and arts organizations.
- Ask administrators to take part in theatre classes. • Volunteer lunch-time performance at a local business. • Hold a Saturday morning session in creative drama for young children. Drama club members could conduct sessions. It might be possible for high school students to go to day schools and do sessions. • Encourage school newspapers to highlight TIOSM activities in particular. • Hold lunch-hour performances/exhibits. • Organize a theatre festival within a school or with the community arts councils. • Open theatre classes or regular rehearsals to "nonarts" students for a day.
- Tour a performance or exhibit to elementary schools, community groups, or public places (malls, bank lobbies, senior centers, libraries . . .). • Plan a lecture/demonstration of various theatrical forms for presentation at assemblies, the public library, community organizations, etc. • Sponsor an after school "master class" for students taught by members of the drama club. • Set up a "slide show" that runs continuously showing theatre for students. • Center a classroom bulletin board around THEATRE IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH. • Substitute a play report for a book report. • Sponsor special field trips to the theatre. • Encourage all teachers in every department to involve theatre within their lesson plans. • Coordinate a play reading contest. Use the Library's resources.
- Encourage students to write a play.

Division Report: Professional Theatre

Defining the division has been my focus for my two-year chairing of the Professional Division. Many questions were raised concerning purpose, existence, mission and identification of members as I assumed the chair. Through the first year, I conducted the survey and received additional feedback by the insignificant number of returns. Perhaps, we reasoned, this division serves no purpose and has little relevance for the membership of AKT.

And yet, the board and I were loathe to disband it. Our rationales included the fact that we *do* have professional theatre in Kansas. There is a vast overlap of members who would be eligible for this division and there must be some sort of representation of this aspect of Kansas theatre. But what was most relevant to me personally was that I had accepted this Chair and as a professional I could serve in my own unique capacity. As I entered the second year of my term, I had a project in mind that was dear to my own heart — to identify and showcase Kansas playwrights.

As a playwright and director of new plays, I knew the process and I had also been serving as drama editor for Woodley Press, a small press existing to publish our state's writers. I approached **Robert Lawson**, Woodley's president, about the idea of combining forces with AKT to publish and promote new plays through the Robert Gross Memorial Competition which is held annually by Woodley but had never been offered to playwrights.

Both boards, Woodley and AKT, were enthusiastic about the possibilities. As I write this good bye, the book is now in its final stages, ready for the printer. It is a beautiful collection and it has taught me much about the purpose of the division.

Hopefully, we have learned that the Professional Division is a vehicle for resources, contact and special projects — its working structure depends on its chair. I am pleased with my term and the opportunity to share four wonderful plays from our writers. I've had much help and support from both organizations and feel encouraged that indeed, with cooperation and creativity, this division can continue to function and contribute to the overall growth and purpose of AKT as a whole.

I leave my term satisfied that the contribution of the book, *Four Class Acts: Kansas Theatre*, both documents the fine work that is going on with new plays from our Kansas writers and theatres, and the collaboration that is possible with other groups to promote theatrical works within our state. Now, as **Linda Smurr**, your new chair, finds her purpose and goals for her two years as division chair, I hope you will encourage and support her in the same whole-hearted manner you have me.

Thank you all for the opportunity you gave me to serve. It has been a rewarding experience.

Repha Buckman

Article Published

"Getting into the Head of the Children's Theatre Actor," by **Dr. Jeanne Klein**, an Associate Professor of Theatre and Film at the **University of Kansas**, will be published in the next issue of the *New England Theatre Journal* (Vol. 3, 1992).

This paper was originally presented at the directing symposium of the Mid-America Theatre Conference last year in Kansas City.

SW Bell Foundation Grants Deadline Nears

The 1992 Kansas Arts Excellence Program is Southwestern Bell Foundation's way of saying the Kansas arts community is important to the state, its people and its businesses.

Southwestern Bell Foundation is providing \$60,000 to be awarded in grants up to \$3,000 each to fund programs and projects in three categories: Arts Council Educational Projects, Community Theatre Developmental Projects and Performing and Visual Arts Underwriting.

Arts Excellence grants will be awarded based on local cultural needs, the quality of a sponsoring group's past activities, opportunity for local promotions and grant availability.

Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial before May 15.

Applicants for funding:

- Must be located within Southwestern Bell Telephone's Kansas service area.
- Must have a board of directors composed of local citizens.
- Must have existed for at least one year before requesting a grant.

- Must have 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status under the code of the Internal Revenue Service, or qualify as a government entity.
- Must meet specific criteria listed under category description.

A completed application must be returned by March 1, 1992, to the address noted on the application.

Only one application per category will be accepted.

Of special interest are Community Theatre Development Grants. To be eligible for funding in this category:

- Applicant *must* be a member of the Association of Kansas Theatre (college and professional theaters are not eligible).
- Requests must fit one of the following three project areas:
 - A. **Artist in Residence** — allows a community theater to bring in a director, designer, costumer, playwright, musical director, choreographer or professional actor/actress for the purpose of upgrad-

ing the quality of production and teaching the working members of the theater group new techniques in some aspect of production.

B. Project Assistance/Development — allows a community theater to launch, improve or expand a supplemental theatrical program, such as a children's theater, senior adult theater, readers' theater or an experimental theater program.

C. Technical/Management Assistance — allows a community theater to hire a consultant in theater management to help set goals and objectives, develop appropriate bylaws, establish a financial accounting system or develop more effective methods for recruiting and retaining volunteers.

For further information, contact the AKT Central Office at 316-685-9306, or your local Southwestern Bell representative.

AKT Convention '92 — FUSION!

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Phone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

FEES

Convention:

AKT Members.....	\$55.00
Spouse	\$30.00
Non-Members.....	\$65.00
AKT Membership	\$20.00
AKT Student Membership.....	\$10.00
(Members receive a subscription to Marquee , access to a script library, theatre discount, and more)	
One-Day Registration	\$25.00
Specify Day _____	

Banquets, Lunches & Entertainment:

(Your Options)

Thursday Welcome Banquet.....	\$10.00
Friday Box Lunch	\$6.00
Friday Secondary Banquet.....	\$10.00
Saturday Box Lunch	\$6.00
Saturday Banquet and Dance.....	\$20.00
(Guests Welcome)	
Sunday Send-Off Buffet	\$8.00

TOTAL

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE _____

Complete and mail to:
AKT, 949 Parklane, #332
WICHITA, KANSAS 67218

For additional information, call
316-685-9306
(evenings or weekends, or leave a message)

TEACHER REGISTRATION

*Please photocopy this form for additional registrants.
On-site Registration available.*

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Phone (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

REGISTRATION FEE:

Convention plus inservice cost 3 units of credit

AKT Member	\$75.00
Non-Member	\$95.00

MEAL OPTIONS:

THURSDAY, March 5 Welcome Banquet	\$10.00
FRIDAY, March 6 Box Lunch	\$6.00
Teacher Awards Banquet	\$10.00
SATURDAY, March 7 Box Lunch	\$6.00
AKT Banquet & Dance	\$20.00
SUNDAY, March 8 Send-Off Buffet	\$8.00

PAYMENT:

Check — Make payable to WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
 Credit Card Payment
 Visa MasterCard

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON CARD _____

Return completed form with registration fees to:
DIVISION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
WASHBURN UNIVERSITY, TOPEKA, KS 66621

To register by phone,
call 913-231-1010 Ext. 1399
Credit Card Only!

Have You
Renewed For 1992?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Membership are valid
September 1 to August 31
of each year

Make check payable to "AKT"

Categories of Memberships
Individual

Regular \$20
Student/Senior \$10

Small (Budget: Under \$10,000/yr.) \$50
Large (Budget: Over \$10,000/yr.) \$90

Contributing
Contributors \$50-\$99
Friends \$100-\$249
Donor \$250-\$499
Sponsors \$500-\$999
Patrons \$1000-\$4999
Benefactors \$5000 and up

VISA/MASTERCARD (Circle one)

Expiration Date _____

Division Affiliation (check up to two)

- Children's Theatre
- Community Theatre
- Professional Theatre
- Secondary School Theatre
- University/College Theatre

Mail this application with your check to:
AKT Central Office
949 Parklane, Suite 332
Wichita, Kansas 67218
(316) 685-9306

Marquee

Marquee is published as a membership service of the Association of Kansas Theatre, Inc. Members are encouraged to submit information and articles about their work, special interests, honors/awards, or issues of concern to the general membership.

The mention of a product, service, publication, conference, workshop, meeting, etc., in *Marquee* does not constitute endorsement or sponsorship, nor is it an indication of quality by *Marquee* or the AKT unless specifically stated.

Marquee is a publication of the AKT Central Office, 949 Parklane, Suite #332, Wichita, KS 67218. Telephone: (316) 685-9306.

John A. Gedraitis
Executive Director/Editor

ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE
949 Parklane, #332
Wichita, KS 67218

Address Correction Requested



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Convention savings

(Continued from page 1)

High School; Theatre for Young America, Overland Park; Pioneer Trail Jr. High, Olathe; Seem-To-Be Players, Lawrence; Illustrated Theatre Company, Chicago; KU Theatre for Young People; and Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre, Omaha. Presenters are eligible to have travel and convention fees paid by the Mid-America Arts Alliance.

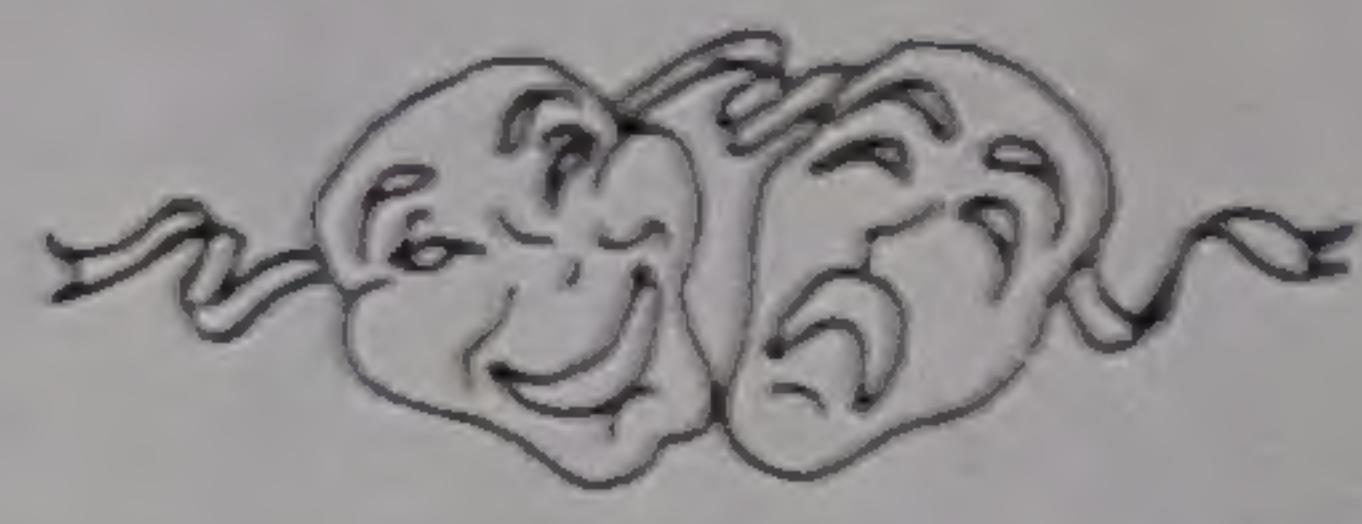
A complete schedule of productions and workshops is available on page 3.

Also new this year will be the method of presenting awards. Secondary School awards to teachers and administrators will be presented at an awards banquet Friday evening. AKT recognition awards will be presented at a formal dinner/dance Saturday evening. Key-note speaker scheduled is Jed Davis, retired KU professor of children's theatre, and one of the founders of AKT.

Afterglows are planned after the Thursday and Friday night activities, and the convention will close with the traditional Sunday buffet/annual meeting.

For those members who will be staying at the Holiday Inn, a special room rate of \$50.00 per night, double occupancy, has been established. Reservations may be made by calling the Holidome directly at 913-841-7077. Deadline for reservations is March 1. After the cutoff date, availability of rooms cannot be guaranteed.

Please send checks to John A. Gedraitis, AKT Executive Director, 949 Parklane, Suite 332, Wichita, KS 67218, or call 316-685-9306. Inquiries concerning convention activities may be addressed to Ric Averill, Convention '92 Chair, 2 Winona, Lawrence, KS 66046, or phone 913-842-6622 or 913-843-5067.



AKT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DIVISION CHAIRS

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